

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – JULY 12, 2021 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:00 PM

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Council members Butterbaugh((via phone), Cacciotti, Carper, Ickes, Jordan (via phone), Kelley and Mayor Pacifico

PRESENTATIONS – the Altoona Police Department Annual Report was presented by Chief Joe Merrill

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to this meeting of 7/12/21 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was real estate and potential litigation.

Mayor Pacifico announced that an additional resolution was going to be added to this agenda. The City Clerk read the resolution into the record and on this agenda as resolution h.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Pacifico called for public comment. The call-in number is included on the agenda and on the City’s website calendar approximately one week prior to the meeting. The number is also displayed on Public Access Channel 14 during the meeting for television viewers.

Russell Geiner of 1200 Adams Avenue spoke about his problems with water along Brush Run stating it needs to be cleaned and the pipes need to be changed because the different sizes are creating a flooding issue; Mr. Geiner asked what the City’s plan is and if FEMA can look at this area and if a buy-out of the neighbors is a possibility.

Ken Biddle owns 408 7th Avenue and 205 7th Avenue and stated there is a combined storm sewer system and it is backing up to his basement and it has happened several times; Mr. Biddle asked if a trap could be added so it doesn’t get to his property.

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Tuesday, June 15, 2021. (0083-21)

b) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Worksession held Monday, June 28, 2021. (0084-21)

c) authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds with Blair County and for the City Clerk to attest to same and further authorizing the Mayor to execute the necessary certifications required to submit the application. (0085-21)

d) awarding the Blighted Property Demolition Bid for 1902 10th Street, 1318 N. 4th Avenue and 1808 11th Street to Earthmovers Unlimited, Inc., of P.O. Box 187, Kylertown, PA 16847, in the amount of \$27,760.00 payable from the City's Contingency Fund or General Fund Reserves, to be reimbursed by the Community Development Block Grant Blighted Property Program, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0086-21)

e) awarding the Blighted Property Demolition Bid for 1800 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA to G&R Excavating and Demolition, Inc., of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, PA 16686, in the amount of \$20,400.00 payable from the City's Contingency Fund or General Fund Reserves, to be reimbursed by the Community Development Block Grant Blighted Property Program, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0087-21)

f) approving the submission of a grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant, in the amount of \$1,670,625.00, for the Altoona Transportation Center Improvement Project, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents associated with the grant application and for the City Clerk to attest to same as needed. (0088-21)

g) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by J. Mark Moschella of 171 Sylvan Oakes Drive, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, for property located at 521 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0089-21)

h) authorizing the City Solicitor to proceed with filing the necessary paperwork to initiate an Eminent Domain proceeding with respect to the real property located at 1306 11th Avenue, in the City of Altoona. (0090-21)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on all items and passed 7 to 0 with all present

ORDINANCES - Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CREATING CHAPTER 289 "DEMOLITION OR PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS

AND OTHER STRUCTURES”, PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, ADMINISTRATION, PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES WITH RESPECT TO DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Ickes.

Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 800-42 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES AND CREATES NEW CHAPTER 595 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE TITLED “SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES” RELATING TO PERMITTING, PLACEMENT, INSTALLATION AND STANDARDS FOR SMALL CELL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY. (TABLED)

This ordinance was tabled as changes will be made to reflect the new laws and it will be re-introduced at a future meeting.

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm reported as follows:

A luncheon meeting will be held with the Senior City Leadership Team on Tuesday to kick off the 2022 budgeting process and an update to the CIP which was not done last year. Information will be presented to Council in the near future.

The ARPA meetings are scheduled for July 20th at AAHS and August 16 at Penn State Devorris Downtown Center, both at 6pm.

The City audit is completed and was circulated to City Council and the Auditor will be scheduled at a future meeting to present the audit to Council.

A mid-year financial update will be presented to Council at the August Council meeting.

Collective bargaining is ongoing and involving a lot of work and time.

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley informed the public attending the Council meeting regarding stormwater issues that the City Manager mentioned the two public meetings that are scheduled and encouraged their attendance. Councilman Kelley stated that

money can be used for some of the things being discussed in regards to stormwater and Council wants to hear from the community.

Councilman Ickes apologized for the stormwater issues the residents in the audience are having and stated it is nice to have people in the audience again participating in the civic process.

Councilman Cacciotti thanked APD for the officers that were downtown last week when he and his son were watching trains and for their kindness and for the sticker and the photo.

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* who asked questions of Council and the Department Directors.

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:19 p.m.